

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

In the Claims

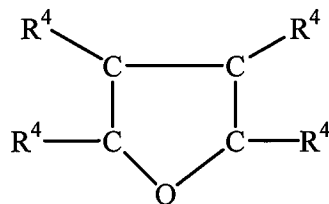
The following is a marked-up version of the claims with the language that is underlined ("___") being added and the language that contains strikethrough ("—") or enclosed by brackets being deleted:

1. (currently amended) A urea/urethane polymer consisting essentially of (a) repeating units derived from a hydroxy-terminated copolymer prepared from tetrahydrofuran and one or both of an alkylene oxide and a cyclic acetal, and (b) repeating units derived from a polyisocyanate, wherein the polyisocyanate is selected from the group consisting of aromatic polyisocyanates and mixtures thereof;

wherein the urea/urethane polymer contains less than about 2 mole percent of urea units described by the formula $-R - N(R^2) - C(O) - N(R^2) - R^1 -$;

wherein R is an aromatic hydrocarbon radical, R^1 is an aliphatic hydrocarbon radical, and R^2 is H or an amide group that is described by the formula $-C(O) - N(R^2) - R -$; and

wherein the tetrahydrofuran is described by the formula



in which any one of the R^4 's is a C_1 to C_4 alkyl radical or hydrogen with the remaining R^4 's being hydrogen;

wherein the urea/urethane polymer comprises repeating units derived from an ionic compound or a potentially ionic compound;

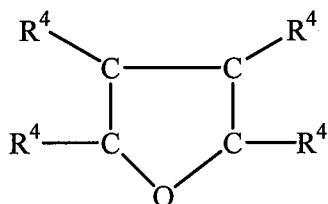
wherein the polymer ~~omits~~ is derived without polyamine chain extenders; and

~~wherein said polyisocyanate is selected from the group consisting of aromatic polyisocyanates and mixtures thereof.~~

2. (original) A urea/urethane polymer according to Claim 1 wherein the polyisocyanate is selected from the group consisting of toluene diisocyanate, methylene diphenyldiisocyanate and polymethylene polyphenylisocyanate.
3. (original) A urea/urethane polymer according to Claim 1 wherein the alkylene oxide is selected from the group consisting of 1,2-propylene oxide and ethylene oxide.
4. (original) A urea/urethane polymer according to Claim 1 wherein the alkylene oxide is ethylene oxide.
5. (original) A urea/urethane polymer according to Claim 1 wherein each R⁴ in the tetrahydrofuran is hydrogen.
6. (original) A urea/urethane polymer according to Claim 1 wherein each R⁴ in the tetrahydrofuran is hydrogen, the hydroxy-terminated copolymer is prepared from an alkylene oxide, and the alkylene oxide is ethylene oxide.
7. (original) A urea/urethane polymer according to Claim 1 wherein the urea/urethane polymer contains less than about 1 mole percent of the described urea units.
8. (canceled)
9. (currently amended) An aqueous dispersion of a urea/urethane polymer and a surfactant; wherein the urea/urethane polymer consists ~~essentially~~ of (a) repeating units derived from a hydroxy-terminated copolymer prepared from tetrahydrofuran and one or both of an alkylene oxide and a cyclic acetal, and (b) repeating units derived from a polyisocyanate, wherein the polyisocyanate is selected from the group consisting of aromatic polyisocyanates and mixtures thereof;
wherein the urea/urethane polymer contains less than about 2 mole percent of urea units described by the formula $-R - N(R^2) - C(O) - N(R^2) - R^1 -$;

wherein R is an aromatic hydrocarbon radical, R¹ is an aliphatic hydrocarbon radical, and R² is H or an amide group that is described by the formula -C(O)-N(R²)-R-; and

wherein the tetrahydrofuran is described by the formula



in which any one of the R⁴s is a C₁ to C₄ alkyl radical or hydrogen with the remaining R⁴s being hydrogen;

wherein the urea/urethane polymer comprises repeating units derived from an ionic compound or a potentially ionic compound;

wherein the polymer ~~omits~~ is derived without polyamine chain extenders; and

~~wherein said polyisocyanate is selected from the group consisting of aromatic polyisocyanates and mixtures thereof.~~

10. (currently amended) An ionomeric urea/urethane polymer consisting essentially of (a) repeating units derived from an aliphatic polyether polyol having a molecular weight of about 700 to about 1500, and (b) repeating units derived from a polyisocyanate, wherein the polyisocyanate is selected from the group consisting of aromatic polyisocyanates and mixtures thereof,

wherein the urea/urethane polymer contains less than about 2 mole percent of urea units described by the formula -R-N(R²)-C(O)-N(R²)-R¹-;

wherein R is an aromatic C₆-C₂₀ hydrocarbon radical, R¹ is an aliphatic C₁-C₂₀ hydrocarbon radical, and R² is H or an amide group that is described by the formula -C(O)-N(R²)-R-;

wherein the urea/urethane polymer comprises repeating units derived from an ionic compound or a potentially ionic compound;

wherein the polymer ~~omits~~ is derived without polyamine chain extenders; and

~~wherein said polyisocyanate is selected from the group consisting of aromatic polyisocyanates and mixtures thereof.~~

11. (canceled)

12. (previously presented) A urea/urethane polymer according to Claim 10 wherein the ionic compound or potentially ionic compound comprises a hydroxycarboxylic acid of the general formula $(HO)_xR^7(COOH)_y$, wherein R^7 represents a straight or branched hydrocarbon radical containing 1 to 12 carbon atoms, and x and y each independently represents values from 1 to 3.

13. (previously presented) A urea/urethane polymer according to Claim 10 wherein the ionic compound or potentially ionic compound comprises 2,2' dimethanolpropionic acid.

14. (original) A urea/urethane polymer according to Claim 10 wherein the polyisocyanate is selected from the group consisting of toluene diisocyanate, methylene diphenyldiisocyanate and polymethylene polyphenylisocyanate.

15-16. (canceled)

17. (original) A urea/urethane polymer according to Claim 10 wherein the polyether polyol has a molecular weight in the range of about 900 to about 1150.

18. (original) A urea/urethane polymer according to Claim 10 wherein the urea/urethane polymer contains less than about 1 mole percent of the described urea units.

19. (currently amended) An aqueous dispersion of a ionomeric urea/urethane polymer and a surfactant; wherein the ionomeric urea/urethane polymer consists essentially of (a) repeating units derived from an aliphatic polyether polyol having a molecular weight of about 700 to about 1500, and (b) repeating units derived from a polyisocyanate, wherein the polyisocyanate is selected from the group consisting of aromatic polyisocyanates and mixtures thereof.

wherein the urea/urethane polymer contains less than about 2 mole percent of urea units described by the formula $-R - N(R^2) - C(O) - N(R^2) - R^1 -$;

wherein R is an aromatic $C_6 - C_{20}$ hydrocarbon radical, R^1 is an aliphatic $C_1 - C_{20}$ hydrocarbon radical, and R^2 is H or an amide group that is described by the formula $-C(O) - N(R^2) - R -$;

wherein the urea/urethane polymer comprises repeating units derived from an ionic compound or a potentially ionic compound;

wherein the polymer ~~emits~~ is derived without polyamine chain extenders; and

~~wherein said polyisocyanate is selected from the group consisting of aromatic polyisocyanates and mixtures thereof.~~